

Jobs in semiconductor sector in focus during Singapore President' visit to Odisha

Partnership between Odisha and Singapore in skilling people for the semiconductor sector was on top of the agenda during Shanmugaratnam's visit. Other areas of collaboration included urban planning, IT sector, and setting up new industrial parks and green hydrogen corridors.

Written by [Sujit Bisoyi](#)

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Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam receives a warm welcome from Chief Minister Mohan Majhi at Bhubaneswar airport. (x/@CMO_Odisha)

Skilling people for the semiconductor sector was on top of the agenda as Odisha explored a collaboration with Singapore during the visit of its President Tharman Shanmugaratnam to the state starting Friday.

This is in line with [Odisha's](#) larger plan to draw investments in the sector, officials said. The development comes against the backdrop of Union Electronics and IT Minister [Ashwini Vaishnaw](#), who represents [Odisha](#) in the [Rajya Sabha](#), announcing that the state will become an IT hub in the next 2-3 years.

The collaboration agreement, which was signed by skill development and technical education (SD&ET) department with [Singapore's ITEES](#) earlier Friday, focuses on assessing the need for skilled human resources in the sector and the jobs available; designing a curriculum based on Singapore's knowledge and experience in the field; and setting [up](#) a skilling centre where people can be trained.

"The semiconductor sector is expected to grow significantly in the coming years and has the potential to generate huge direct employment opportunities. But there is hardly any scope for skilling in this sector. Through this collaboration, we aim to skill our youths at ITIs and polytechnic centres and make them industry-ready, considering the demand in the country and the global market,"SD & ET secretary Bhupendra Singh Poonia told [The Indian Express](#).

The skills will be imparted over five years and will range from semiconductor fundamentals, integrated circuits, industrial automation, packaging and electrical testing, wafer fabrication, cleanroom and vacuum technology, and design engineering.

Officials say Odisha's existing skilling relations with Singapore, a major player in the global semiconductor manufacturing industry, are a key reason behind the collaboration.

On Odisha's prospects in drawing investments in the sector, Poonia, who is also the managing director of IPICOL, the state's nodal agency for investment promotion, said "skilled human capital" is a major concern that comes [up](#) in their consultations with players in the sector.

"Various aspects in the semiconductor value chain – from preparing components to designing chips and packaging – need intense skilling, and we want to impart that to our youths," said Poonia.

A senior bureaucrat said the Centre may soon announce the establishment of an electronics city near Bhubaneswar to manufacture components.

"Since the [BJP](#) is in power in both the state and the Centre, clearances and approvals should be seamless," he said.

The government is also expected to draw new investments during the Utkarsh Odisha conclave, the state's flagship investors' meet starting January 28.

Urban planning & Fintech – what MoUs were signed

The other areas of collaborations include new industrial parks and green hydrogen corridors in Odisha, urban planning and the energy sector.

Singapore's ITEES will support the state government in setting up a world centre for information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services in areas such as cybersecurity, cloud computing, blockchain, internet of things and data science, officials said.

The Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) signed two MoUs with Sembcorp, Singapore's state-owned energy and urban development company, for the development of industrial parks and green hydrogen corridors in various places in Odisha.

Given Singapore's expertise in urban planning, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) joined Surbana Jurong, Singapore — a state-owned consultancy firm focussing on infrastructure and urban development – to help expand Bhubaneswar with modern amenities. The Singapore-based consultancy firm also collaborated with IDCO for infrastructure development in the petrochemical and petroleum investment region (PCPIR) near IOCL's Paradip refinery, officials said.

Odisha also looks to strengthen its FinTech ecosystem as the state's electronics and IT department joins hands with Global Finance and Technology Network (GFTN), Singapore, which will establish a global competency centre in Bhubaneswar Odisha to foster FinTech collaboration.

The final collaboration was in the new energy sector, signed between Nanyang Technological University (NTU), state's power utility GRIDCO, and [IIT Bhubaneswar](#), officials said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who visited Singapore in November, expressed enthusiasm for deepening ties saying there was "tremendous potential" for collaboration between Singapore and Odisha.